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NAVY MEDICINE IN FOCUS

I AM NAVY MEDICINE

BY VJOHNSON – DECEMBER 24, 2014

POSTED IN: I AM NAVY MEDICINE

A few words from a Navy Medicine Corpsman:

When I decided to join the Navy as an undesignated seaman, my wife, Anna, a nurse, ironically knew exactly what I was doing.

“She called it my “midlife crisis.”

My Navy career had a very non-traditional beginning. I quit my perfectly good job as a firefighter and paramedic and joined the Navy at the ‘late’ age of 30. I dreamed of being a “soldier” when I grew up and I had a great career as a firefighter/paramedic, but I just felt a call to serve my country. I wanted to be a Marine, but serve in a medical capacity, so the Navy was my answer. I grew up in a city seven miles from the US-Mexico border in McAllen, Texas. I was a member of ROTC in high school and college. I hated the classroom, so hands-on learning served me best.

I wasn't able to fulfill the dream of being a corpsman immediately upon joining the Navy, but I was determined to eventually make that dream a reality.

I logged countless hours of on-the-job-training aboard USS Nimitz (CVN 68).



My time on Nimitz included taking part in Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise off the coast of Hawai'i, sailing under the Golden Gate Bridge for the 75th Anniversary, and culminated with the opportunity of a lifetime – attending Hospital Corpsman School at Navy Medicine Training Support Center in San Antonio.

Having a wife who's a civilian medical professional helps me focus on doing the best job I can everyday. In my current position as a surgical technologist working at Naval Hospital Bremerton, I treat every patient like I would want to be treated. I also inspire others to put forth their best effort into their duties.

I hope I'm leading by example.

My name is Lance A. Wooster and I Am Navy Medicine.



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